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LETTER DATED 13 MAY 1997 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The members of the Security Council express their appreciation for your letter dated 1 May 1997 (A/51/886-S/1997/347) concerning the informal consultative meeting on Afghanistan, held in New York on 16 April 1997. They welcome your initiative to convene the meeting of the concerned countries to reassess the situation in Afghanistan following recent political and military developments, to discuss how best to promote a negotiated settlement of the conflict and reinforce the United Nations peacemaking efforts.

The members of the Security Council remain gravely concerned about the danger of the continued armed conflict for the region and the plight of the Afghan people. They stress the need for the Afghan parties to cease immediately all armed hostilities, renounce the use of force, put aside their differences and engage in a political dialogue aimed at achieving peace and national reconciliation.

The members of the Security Council reaffirm their support for the continuing efforts of the United Nations, in particular those of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, to facilitate national reconciliation in Afghanistan on the basis of General Assembly resolution 51/195 of 17 December 1996 and Security Council resolution 1076 (1996) of 22 October 1996. While recognizing the need for all concerned countries to be involved in the search for peace, they stress that such initiatives should be coordinated with the United Nations which plays the central role in promoting agreement on a ceasefire and negotiations between the Afghan parties.

The members of the Security Council take note of the concrete proposals by the participants at the above-mentioned consultative meeting aimed at assisting the peaceful resolution of the conflict. They believe that it represented a useful international framework which could meet more frequently.

The members of the Security Council will continue to follow closely the developments in Afghanistan.

(Signed) PARK Soo Gil
President of the Security Council

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